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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 24 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country of an item concerning the restrictions of movement imposed by the host country on certain permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

Please find attached a note verbale addressing the issue of the restrictions of movement, sent by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations to the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

Likewise, I further have the honour to request that the above-mentioned note verbale be circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodriguez Parrilla**

99-31479 (E) 271099

Annex

[Original: Spanish]

Note verbale dated 24 October 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the restrictions and controls imposed by the authorities of the host country on certain permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

This issue has been addressed in a number of resolutions adopted by consensus by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, in relation to the item concerning the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in particular resolution 53/104 of 8 December 1998. In this resolution, the General Assembly notes that during the reporting period the travel controls previously imposed by the host country on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities remained in effect; it requests the host country to consider removing such travel controls, and in this regard notes the positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country.

In total disregard of the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolutions, the host country continues to impose travel controls and restrictions arbitrarily and for political motives on the staff of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

Since November 1998, travel permits have been denied to staff members of the Permanent Mission of Cuba wishing to accept invitations in connection with their work to visit academic institutions in the United States or to travel, for internal, work-related reasons, to the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.

The United States Mission to the United Nations refused to issue a travel permit requested by the Permanent Mission of Cuba in its note verbale No. 570 of 16 November 1998 for Mr. Manlio Hernández García and Mr. Raúl Montes Carbonell, Third and Second Secretary, respectively, to travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in a meeting of the Planning Committee of the Pan American Health Organization.

The United States Mission to the United Nations also refused to issue a travel permit requested by the Permanent Mission of Cuba in its note verbale No. 228 of 4 March 1999 for Mr. Rodolfo Benítez Versón, Second Secretary, to participate in an international seminar held in Princeton, New Jersey, on the 1999 Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The United States Mission to the United Nations also refused to issue a travel permit requested by the Permanent Mission of Cuba in its note verbale No. 281 of 7 April 1999 for Ms. Mirta Hermilla Castro, Second Secretary, to attend a meeting of the Group of 24, a preparatory event for the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C.

The United States Mission to the United Nations also refused to issue a travel permit requested by the Permanent Mission of Cuba in its note verbale No. 326 of 29 April 1999 for Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, his wife, Third Secretary Olga T. Pérez Berra, and Second Secretary Rodolfo Benítez Versón and his wife, Rebeca Yamilé Hernández, together with Mr. Amaury Hernández Chávez and

Mr. José I. Guerra León, attachés, to participate in consultations at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., and to attend the baseball game between the Cuban team and the Baltimore Orioles.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations considers that the refusals to issue the travel permits requested by the Permanent Mission of Cuba, for which — following the usual procedure of the United States authorities and the United States Mission — no explanation was given, are violations of the host-country agreement between the United Nations and the host country and the provisions of the international legal instruments on diplomatic privileges and immunities, to which the United States of America is a party; these refusals are also contrary to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, of 14 March 1975. Moreover, they constitute an interference in the work of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and a restriction on its normal functioning.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations expresses its objection once again to the unjustifiable and arbitrary attitude taken by the United States authorities and by the United States Mission to the United Nations in relation to travel controls imposed on the staff of the Permanent Mission of Cuba.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations denounces the failure of the Government of the United States of America to comply with the recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly and requests the authorities of the host country to take the necessary steps to fulfil the international obligations undertaken by the United States Government and give a satisfactory reply to the repeated demands by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations that its rights be respected in relation to the travel controls being imposed on its staff members.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United States Mission to the United Nations the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.